(b) whether the National Commission has prescribed a questionnaire for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) The State-wise names of social groups which have so far approached the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) for recognition as Backward Class are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure 40].

(b) Yes, Sir.

Financial assistance to voluntary organisation

1918. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for financial assistance received by Government from the various voluntary organisations in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of applications approved out of them by Government alongwith the assistance provided State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the number of applications pending for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) A statement is Annexed. [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 41].

Facilities to SC ST students going abroad for higher studies

1919. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students sent abroad for higher education during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) the facilities provided by Government to them for getting higher education; and

(c) the number and details of scholarship provided under the scheme of national overseas scholarships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) A statement showing the number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students sent abroad for higher education during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(b) Welfare Ministry's National Scheme of Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, etc. students provides for:

(i) Maintenance allowance:

US $ 5940 per annum for Bachelor's degree in Priting Technology,

US $ 6600 per annum for Master's degree in prescribed courses/Ph.D.

US $ 7700 per annum for Post Doctoral research/training;

(ii) Tuition and other compulsory University fee and medical insurance premia, if any;

(iii) Contigency allowance up to US $385 per annum for books/essential apparatus / study tour/typing and binding of thesis;

(iv) UP to US $15 to cover incidental journey expenses;

(v) Equipment allowance of Rs. 1100/-; and